### **MUSKAN FOUNDATION FOR PEOPLE WITH MULTIPLE DISABILITIES**



## Monthly Newsletter



## **Our Vision**

Children with MDVI participate and are recognized in their families and communities, and realize their own unique abilities in life.

## **Our Mission**

Muskan maximizes the potential of MDVI children, by providing customized, low cost therapies and special education under one roof; and by empowering parents with the knowledge, skills and confidence to support their child's unique needs and development.

## Together we shall bring that muskan

#### **Muskan's Red Flag Day**

On August 7th, we celebrated Red Flag Day in collaboration with Akansha Foundation's primary teachers. We shared information about learning disabilities with teachers. They had a lot of questions, which were answered.



## Session with Vaze College



Muskan Foundation conducted an Awareness session on "Neurodevelopmental Disorder and Teaching Technique for the Children" with the students of Vaze College at Bandra Centre on 8th August 2024, Thursday from 2 PM - 4 PM. The Program team explained the types, causes, signs, symptoms, and challenges associated with neurological disorders in children. Muskan provided information on Individualized Education

Programs (IEPs) for each child. They discussed how the foundation teaches students basic daily activities and explained the roles of Occupational Therapy (OT) and Physiotherapy (PT).



**Naag Panchami Celebration** 

Also described the specific methods used by educators to develop the children's senses through OT and PT, incorporating various games and activities to engage children with multiple disabilities. The session concluded with a productive discussion during the Q & A segment and a vote of thanks delivered by one of the students.

On August 9th Muskan Foundation celebrated Naag Panchami in all six centres with great enthusiasm. Students during the circle time got to learn more about its significance and traditions. Teachers bought a clay made snake model for students understand the concept better & feel the idol in their hand. Students were excited to hold a snake idol in their hand. The event was a wonderful opportunity for students to engage with cultural traditions and foster a sense of community.



## **External Teacher Training**



Our Teacher Ms. Anushka Mhatre attended a 4-day training session on "Sex Education and Mental Health" organized by Sense International India. She gained valuable insights from the session, which provided comprehensive information on teaching sex education to children appropriate materials with and understanding their mental health. The training included a variety of educational materials and involved engaging activities and presentations. She is thankful for providing her with the opportunity to participate in these sessions.

## **Independence Day Celebration**

We celebrated Independence Day on August 14, 2024 at our all Six Centres with a range of activities and performances. The children dressed up as soldiers, policemen, Chacha Nehru, Politicians, and Bharat Mata.





A pre concept was given to students while incorporating elements like the tricolour flag, sticks, and flowers. They enjoyed patriotic songs and a flag-hoisting ceremony conducted by Muskan Foundation. Additionally, a few students performed the national anthem in sign language. At the end of the event, each participating student received a small gift as a token of appreciation.

#### **Raksha Bandhan Celebration at Centre**

Students from all six centers celebrated Rakhi on August 16th with their peers, tying other's Rakhi on each wrists and exchanging gifts. The atmosphere was filled with joy and excitement as the students embraced the essence of brotherhood and sisterhood. They shared heartfelt moments, promising to protect and care for one another, and created lasting memories of unity and friendship. The day was а beautiful testament to the strength of their bonds and the spirit of togetherness.





We held the Open Day on August 24, 2024. During the event, teachers shared the children's progress with their parents and distributed report cards. Teachers also emphasized the importance of not discontinuing medication without consulting a doctor as observed in some cases. Additionally, we reminded parents to submit the given home task on time.

## Muskan Activity and Parental Participation (MAPP) Activity

On August 24, 2024, we held the 2nd MAPP Activity both offline at our Bandra center and online at our other 5 centers, focusing on a skill-based workshop: Chocolate Making. Other 5 Centers workshop. the attended lt was by Muskan teacher facilitated Ms. Anushka Mhatre, the session covered techniques for making chocolates, chocolate bars, and chocolate modaks.





The workshop drew significant interest from parents, aiming to provide them with skills to potentially start a small home-based business. At the end of the session, parents tasted chocolates made by the facilitator and expressed their appreciation for both the Muskan Foundation and Ms. Mhatre.

#### Raksha Bandhan Celebration at Neurotypical School



On August 25th, 2023, Muskan Foundation hosted а Raksha Bandhan event across six schools, including Vanita Vishram School, New High School, Western Hill School, Cardinal Gracia High School, Social Service League CBSC School, and Rejoice International School. The celebration focused on promoting inclusivity and empathy, featuring an educational session on Braille, Sign Language, and Orientation Mobility.

Students gained insights into how individuals with special needs navigate the world. Following this, a creative Rakhi-making activity allowed students to express their unity and compassion, fostering teamwork and connections across schools. The event highlighted the power of compassion and the importance of building meaningful relationships. Photographs captured the joy and inclusivity of the day, showcasing the success of this heartwarming celebration.

## **Gopal Kala Celebration**

On August 26, 2024, we celebrated Gopal Kala. The children decorated the Dahi Handi with various elements, including different coloured flowers, fruits, curd, coconut, and poha. They explored the textures of haldi (turmeric), Kumkum, and rice. The children tied the fruits and Dahi Handi to a rope, filled it with flowers, curd, and poha, and then secured it. With the help of a coconut, a child broke the Dahi Handi. Following the celebration, the teacher distributed prasad to all the students and parents.



## **Educational Visit at Mall**



On August 30, 2024, we organized an educational visit to Reliance Smart Bazar. During the visit, children interacted with mall staff and other people, exploring various textures of products like fruits, clothes, and bags. They enjoyed the music and sampled food provided by the mall staff.

The children enjoyed sitting in the trolley and were particularly attracted to the toy section. Some children recognized and pointed out familiar toys, foods, or clothes. Both parents and children had a great time, and the children were reluctant to leave.





Case Study of the Month

Student Name: - Shivam Ajay Thankre (\*Name Change)

Disability: - Cerebral palsy and Autism Spectrum Disorder

Age: - 4 Years

Material: Shape peg board, shapes and colour flash cards, 3D objects.

Area: Shapes and Colours

**Goal of month: -** He will be able to identify basic colour and shapes with different types of material with verbal and physical promoting.

**Before working on him-** He was doing palmer grip peg board activity with verbal prompting. He identifies and matches colour and shapes with maximum help.

**End of the month: -** Now he can identify and match colour and shapes with flash card to object and does shapes peg board activity with minimum verbal help.

## **Vision Therapy**

Name of the child – Ayushi Gurav (\*Name Change)

Disability: Global Developmental Delay (GDD)+ Visual impairment (VI)

Area of Concern: Poor Ocular Motor Skills

Goal: Tracking and Scanning

Field loss: Right Field Loss

| When Ayushi came for assessment :   | With regular vision Therapy Ayushi is now :  |
|---|--|
| <ol> <li>Her tracking and scanning are very</li></ol>                             | <ol> <li>She can track from left to mid</li> <li>She can scan light to the left, up, and</li></ol> |
| poor <li>She is not using her right hand</li> <li>Her attention span is poor</li> | down <li>Her attention span has improved</li>  |

**Parental Guidance:** Her mother has taught her at home to perform the same activity using real objects.

Name of the child: Veer Kokare(\*Name Change)

**Disability:** Diplegic Cerebral Palsy with Sensory Processing Disorder and Visual Impairment

## Area of Concern:

- Hyperactivity
- Sitting tolerance
- Recovery of left upper limb (tonal abnormalities, self-harm)
- Truncal stability (poor)

## Goals:

- To reduce hyperactivity
- To reduce inattention and improve sitting tolerance
- To improve command following
- To improve the function of the left upper limb

| When Veer came for assessment :   | With regular Occupational Therapy<br>Veer is now :   |
|---|--|
| <ol> <li>Seek proprioceptive and vestibular</li></ol>   | <ol> <li>Hyperactivity has reduced</li> <li>Maintains sitting during one activity</li> <li>Maintains eye contact when talked to,</li></ol> |
| input <li>Show non-usage of the left upper</li>   | sometimes <li>Can reach and open with the left hand</li>   |
| limb <li>Exhibit inattention</li> <li>Demonstrate fleeting eye contact</li> <li>Display poor sitting tolerance</li> | with prompting; closure is incomplete <li>Follows simple commands</li>   |

**Parental Guidance:** Extensive physiotherapy, vision therapy, and speech therapy



Name of the child: Rudra Bansode (\*Name Change)

Disability: Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD)

- Area of Concern: Speech and Language Development
- Goal: To Develop Receptive Language

| When Rudra came for assessment :   | With regular Speech Therapy Rudra is now :  |
|--|---|
| <ol> <li>Previously, he was unable to use his<br/>facial muscles for oral movements.</li> <li>His receptive language was<br/>underdeveloped.</li> <li>Eye contact was poor.</li> <li>Only some gestures were used for<br/>communication.</li> <li>Attention was not well-developed.</li> </ol> | <ol> <li>His vocabulary is developing.</li> <li>He has started to speak more than 30 words meaningfully.</li> <li>He now imitates sounds and words after the teacher.</li> <li>Receptive language is improving through simple verbal instructions.</li> <li>He can name alphabets, numbers, and colors independently.</li> <li>He has started to use two-word phrases.</li> <li>Speech clarity is improving.</li> </ol> |

**Parental Guidance:** The mother has been taught various strategies to develop language, and she is implementing these strategies at home.

## Physiotherapy

Name of the child: Veer Kokare (\*Name Change)

Disability: Cerebral Palsy- Hemiplegic

Area of Concern: Delayed milestones, Gross Motor Affection, Spasticity

**Goal:** Veer will maintain sitting with weight-bearing on one hand and attend to a toy with the other hand for 7-8 minutes.

| When Veer came for assessment :   | With regular physiotherapy Veer is now :   |
|---|--|
| <ol> <li>Veer had delayed milestones and was<br/>unable to sit, stand, or walk<br/>independently.</li> <li>He had poor trunk control, gross<br/>motor impairment</li> <li>he did not weight-bear on the<br/>affected side and did not use the<br/>affected hand.</li> </ol> | <ol> <li>Sit independently with good trunk<br/>control and stand independently from<br/>a bench with minimal support.</li> <li>Stand without support for 10-15<br/>seconds, lift one leg while standing,<br/>and step up independently with<br/>support. He can climb stairs under<br/>supervision.</li> <li>Cruise independently with minimal<br/>support.</li> <li>Walk long distances with one-hand<br/>support.</li> </ol> |

# **Parental Guidance:** Stretching exercises at home and increasing playtime in a standing position.

## **HELP US CHANGE A STORY**

When Sarthak Raj Rathod (\*Name Change) first arrived at Muskan Foundation, he was a bright and eager 4-year-old with Autism Spectrum Disorder and speech delay. At the beginning of the month, his familiarity with numerical concepts was limited to identifying cubes and rods and writing numbers 1-5 using the Navnirmit kit. Despite the challenges he faced, he was enthusiastic about learning.

During his initial sessions, Sarthak showed promising potential. In Session 1, with the help of verbal prompts, he successfully wrote numbers 6-10 by copying them using the Navnirmit technique. This progress continued in Session 2, where he again demonstrated the ability to write numbers 6-10 with similar support.

By the end of the month, Sarthak had made significant strides. He could write numbers 6-10 using the Navnirmit technique with limited verbal prompts, showing his growing independence and understanding of numerical concepts. This improvement reflects not only his hard work but also the supportive and effective interventions provided by Muskan Foundation. Sarthak's journey over the month highlights his development and the positive impact of the tailored educational strategies he received.

Our dreams are big. But we cannot travel ahead to complete the mission without your generous support. Therefore, we request you to support the Special Education Program of children with multiple disabilities by sponsoring a Child's Monthly Education Program or Therapies on the following details.

